GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3901
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Accessible India Campaign
Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Jayavardhan Dr. Jayakumar;Karandlaje Km. Shobha;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Simha Shri Prathap;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a flagship campaign, "Accessible India Campaign" for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and if so, the details and objectives thereof;

(b) whether at least 50 per cent of all the Government buildings, Railway Stations and Airports and in all the State capitals including the National Capital Territory of Delhi are proposed to be converted into fully accessible buildings for differently abled by July, 2016 and if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(c) whether the Government/Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is in the process of framing accessibility standards for buildings and making all Government Websites accessible to the differently-abled, if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(d) whether the Government would initiate an audit of Government buildings all over the country to gauge how they can be retrofitted and made accessible to the differently-abled and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to create an Accessibility index to measure the level of disabled friendliness of a system, if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be created?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) Yes, Madam. The Govt. has launched the "Accessible India Campaign" (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) to successfully operationalize and create accessible, barrier free environment as a nation-wide flag ship campaign for achieving universal accessibility for persons with disabilities.

(b) The Campaign focuses on conducting accessibility audit of 25-50 important government buildings of 50 cities including all States Capitals, international airports & A1, A and B categories of railway stations in the country and making them accessible by July, 2016. For conducting accessibility audits, experienced access auditors have been empaneled by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi an organization under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
(c) & (d): Central Public Works Department (CPWD), under the Ministry of Urban Development has issued guidelines and space standards for barrier free environment for disabled and elderly persons in 1998.

The National Policy on Universal Accessibility was notified on 25th October, 2013. The policy recognizes the need to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disabilities and to facilitate equal and unhindered access of Electronics and ICTS products and services by differently-abled persons.
(e) The Accessible India Campaign also covers preparation of Accessibility Index to measure accessibility of physical and virtual infrastructure and processes and systems of various organizations so as to make them more disabled friendly.

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